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Annual Report

—OF THE—

SELECTMEN, TREASURER,

BOARD OF EDUCATION,

—AND—

Superintending School Committee

—OF THE—

Town of Northfield,

—FOR THE—

Year Ending March 1, 1880.

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Annual Report

—OF—

THE TOWN OF NORTHFIELD.

Account of Money furnished Franklin J. Eastman, Town Treasurer.

The following sums have been received and paid to the Treasurer, besides the cash balance of March 1, 1879.

Reported in his hands March 1, 1879,	$982 99
Received of State Treasurer, Savings Bank tax,	715 63
" " Railroad tax,	417 45
" " Literary Fund,	63 27
County of Merrimack, reimbursement,	457 16
Granite Mills, highway tax,	41 58
Gardner S. Abbott, arrearage of taxes,	358 54
" " Collector, 1879,	5,743 00
	$8,779 62

ORDERS HAVE BEEN GIVEN AS FOLLOWS:

To pay State tax,	$976 00
" County tax,	1,300 18
	$2,276 18

PARSONAGE INTEREST.

Paid J. F. Taylor, Episcopal society,	$5 50
Otis C. Wyatt, Methodist "	5 50
Oscar P. Sanborn, Cong'l "	5 50
Jeremiah Austin, Baptist "	5 50
	$22 00

SCHOOL MONEY.

Dist. No. 1, Oscar P. Sanborn, Committee,	$114 16
2, Lewis D. Haines, "	144 68
3, Joseph S. Lang, "	9 82
4, Lyman B. Fellows "	101 05
5, Daniel H. Drown, "	106 30
6, David Brown, "	88 70
7, Mrs. C. A. Winslow, "	80 73
Union, Adam S. Ballantyne,	273 46
Marden Settlement,	3 08
	$921 98

SCHOOL-HOUSE TAX, No. 5.

Paid Robinson & Thompson,	$186 00
Moses Bachelder,	40 00
	$226 00
Coupons paid by Treasurer,	$1,077 00

BOUNTIES.

Paid David Brown, on 5 foxes,	$2 50
Oren Nudd, 1 hawk,	20
Hiram H. Cross, 4 hawks,	80
John H. Collins, "	80
John Keniston, 1 hawk,	20
John Chamberlain, "	20
H. P. Sewell, "	20
Benj. Morrill, "	20
John H. Dinsmore, 2 hawks,	40
	$5 50

DAMAGE TO DOMESTIC ANIMALS.

Paid Clough Gorrell, 3 sheep killed by dogs,	$9 00
Josiah H. Philbrick, 2 killed, and damage to others,	5 50
Moses Bachelder, 5 killed,	15 00
	$29 50

ROADS AND BRIDGES.

Paid Walter F. Glines, damage to sleigh,	$2 50
C. D. Bryant, breaking roads, and repairs,	8 00
F. P. Rand, working out part of Shaker highway tax,	4 00
G. E. Davis, non-resident tax worked,	11 72
Edward R. Glines, labor,	1 25
W. C. Bryant, damage to horse, wagon and harness,	8 00
Byron Shaw, labor,	15 00
Richard Dearborn, labor,	3 75
G. E. Gorrell, "	4 37
James N. Forrest, labor, and covering stone,	10 00
Eben B. Calef, labor,	5 75
Edgar O. Downing, "	1 25
John S. Dearborn, "	33 69
A. J. Cate, "	1 25
C. H. Ayers, non-resident tax worked out,	2 73
Clough Gorrell, labor,	6 62
Daniel Sanborn, labor, and covering stone,	5 00
John Keniston, labor,	1 25
George W. Corliss, non-resident tax worked out, and other labor,	6 00
Erastus Nudd, labor,	1 36
Richard Bachelder, non-resident tax, &c.,	9 75
Rufus Boynton, damage to wagon spring,	2 00
Philbrick & Hill, labor,	1 13
Thomas R. Payson, "	3 12
Cyrus T. French, "	1 25
Clarence W. Whicher, "	2 50
Retyre M. Couch, "	9 54
J. S. Winslow, non-resident tax, &c.,	28 09

Paid Benjamin Glines, labor,	$5 50
B. P. Simonds, lumber,	10 14
J. H. Dinsmore, labor,	2 25
Smith & Barns, for plank,	7 12
L. B. W. Davis, damage to sleigh,	1 00
	$216 88

SUPPORT OF THE POOR.

Paid H. P. Sewell, board of Nancy Jackman,	$63 55
John A. Kimball, board of Isaac Kimball,	51 70
John H. Collins, services at burial of John K. Davis,	2 00
C. H. Davis, for Mrs. Leonard Yeaton,	5 00
David P. Wilkins, milk for J. K. Davis,	1 10
Dr. A. A. Moulton, for Edith Spofford,	3 00
H. K. Thompson, coffin, robes, &c., for J. K. Davis,	16 50
Mary E. Collins, nursing Nicholson family,	5 00
H. K. Thompson, coffin, box, robe and services as undertaker for Mrs. Leonard Yeaton,	13 50
Joseph J. Prescott, for board of Ruhama Prescott,	18 00
John Collins, care of Erastus Nudd,	15 00
James N. Forrest, wood for David Morrill,	5 00
Joseph Hill, clothing for "	2 12
Wesley Knowles, for plowing David Morrill's garden,	1 00
Philbrick & Hill, for David Morrill,	1 50
J. F. Taylor, for Mrs. George Roberts,	5 00
Philbrick & Hill, goods for Fanny Dinsmore,	50 00
Dr. A. A. Moulton, for Spofford,	8 50
Philbrick & Hill, for J. Herbert,	2 00
William H. Clough, potatoes for David Morrill,	2 25
C. P. Herrick & Co. for Nicholson family,	80 87
Dr. O. S. Martin, for "	3 00
C. P. Herrick & Co., for Benjamin Collins' family,	45 94
" " " Isaac Kimball, spectacles,	1 50
" " " Mrs. George Roberts,	11 00
" " " David Morrill,	20 13
" " " J. K. Davis,	38 95

Paid C. P. Herrick & Co., for Mrs. Leonard Yeaton,		$8 95
" " "	Ruhama Prescott,	2 00
" " "	Erastus Nudd,	1 56
" " "	Edith Spofford,	1 00
Dr. G. R. Gould, medical attendance, County paupers,		93 00
John S. Winslow, for J. K. Davis,		42
Dr. J. P. Osborn, medical attendance for E. Nudd,		16 00
C. H. Davis, for Mrs. L. Yeaton,		4 00
		$600 04
Daniel Barnard, in Sewell case,		$115 05

CURRENT EXPENSES.

Paid Simon G. Fifield, damage to horse,	$15 00
C. P. Herrick & Co., miscellaneous,	4 75
Dr. W. A. Bucklin,	75
Town of Tilton, use of lobby,	85
B. W. Sanborn, invoice books, &c.,	5 95
Jason Foss, Auditor,	2 00
C. R. Gould, "	2 00
B. F. Cofran, "	2 00
Otis C. Wyatt, Supervisor,	6 00
Obe G. Morrison, "	2 75
Oscar P. Sanborn, "	5 00
L. D. Miller, sawing wood,	50
Chas. F. Hill, printing reports,	25 75
S. T. Holmes, Police duties,	4 00
Z. C. Perkins, insuring Town House,	15 00
W. A. Colby, board of Selectmen,	5 65
John P. Nutter, Register of Probate, certificate,	2 00
S. K. Rogers, board of Selectmen,	2 50
Chas. F. Hill, printing notices and receipts,	2 75
Stephen Staples, services and costs, Town vs. Prescott,	20 00
F. J. Eastman, witness fees, Sewell case,	3 77
John P. Morrison, care of Town House,	5 00
Hiram I. Glines, public watering tub,	3 00

Paid William C. French, public watering tub,	$3 00
L. D. Miller, sawing wood,	50
Stephen Staples, Police duties,	9 50
Moses Winslow, wood for Town House,	3 52
G. W. Abbott, Police services, outstanding,	1 50
G. A. Stevens, books for poor children, and prescriptions,	2 75
Daniel Barnard, Lougee vs. Town,	16 00
" " advice,	4 00
T. W. Long, S. S. Committee,	5 00
Mrs. L. R. H. Cross, "	25 00
Chas. F. Hill, Town Clerk,	35 00
Franklin J. Eastman, Treasurer,	30 00
John S. Winslow, services as Selectman, and expense,	42 00
Byron Shaw, " " "	57 50
James N. Forrest, " " "	93 00
	$465 24

Statement of Gardner S. Abbott's Collection on Tax List Committed to him April, 1879.

Whole amount committed,		$6,275 86
Abatements and errors,	$60 54	
Highway receipts,	80 00	
Collector's fees,	80 30	
Paid Treasurer,	5,743 00	
Uncollected,	312 02	
		$6,275 86

Reported uncollected March 1, 1879, on list of April, 1878, $493 69

Estimated as good, $350 00

Abatements,	$23 99	
Non-resident highway tax receipts,	2 54	
Uncollected,	113 16	
Paid Treasurer,	354 00	
		$493 69

Collected on list of 1877,	$4 54
Collected as above,	354 00
	$358 54

See Credit Account.

Everybody interested may be assured that if Gardner S. Abbott collects a dollar on back lists it will find its way to the Treasury.

Amount of indebtedness March 1, 1876,	$25,859 46
Present, "	16,011 75
Reduction in four years,	$9,847 71

INVOICE, APRIL, 1879.

220 Polls,	$22,000
165 Horses,	9,080
756 Cattle,	18,625
660 Sheep,	1,602
Hogs,	90
Stock in Banks,	3,500
Money at Interest,	32,860
Stock in Trade,	2,950
Carriages,	1,080
Real Estate,	332,071
Amount,	$423,858

Invoice 1878,	$432,071
" 1879,	423,858
Reduction,	$8,213

Real Estate *reduced* last April, about $20,000.
Money at Interest *advanced* about the same amount.

Whole amount tax as committed to Collector:		
Resident money,	$5,042 43	
Non-resident "	724 53	
		$5,766 96
Non-resident highway,		223 50
School-house, (No. 5)		228 40
Dog tax,		57 00
		$6,275 86

Amount Authorized to be Raised.

Warrant of County Treasurer,	$1,300 18
" State Treasurer,	976 00
Voted last March,	2,500 00
By *former* vote of Town, Parsonage Interest,	22 00
" " " School Fund Interest,	42 00
School money,	854 00
	$5,694 18
By law, 5 per cent. of same might have been added,	284 70
Amount which might have been raised,	$5,978 88
Amount raised, including Dog tax,	$5,823 96

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES N. FORREST,
BYRON SHAW,
JOHN S. WINSLOW,
Selectmen of Northfield.

Auditors' Report.

We, the subscribers, having examined the foregoing accounts of the Selectmen and Treasurer, for the year ending March 1, 1880, respectfully submit that we find them correctly cast and properly vouched.

The following is a statement of the financial condition of the Town. The Selectmen charge the Treasurer with having received $8,779.62.

Of this amount the Treasurer discharges himself as follows:

Paid State tax,	$976,00
County tax,	1,300,18
Parsonage Interest,	22,00
School money,	921 98
School House tax,	226 00
Coupons,	1,077 00
Bounties,	5 50
Damage to domestic animals,	29 50
For Highway,	216 88
Support of poor,	600 04
Daniel Barnard, Sewell case,	115 05
Current Expenses,	465 24
	$5,955
Leaving balance in hands of Treasurer,	$2,824

LIABILITIES AS FOLLOWS:

Bonds,	$18,300 00
Accrued interest,	366 00
Out-standing Coupons, 1878,	18 00
" " 1879,	24 00
Due School District No. 5,	315 56
" on Dog tax,	41 00
	$19,064 56

AVAILABLE MEANS.

Cash in Treasurer's hands,	$2,824 25	
Uncollected taxes, estimated good,	200 00	
C. T. French's note and interest,	28 56	
		$3,052 81
Present indebtedness,		$16,011 75

Amount of indebtedness March 1, 1879,	$17,597 26
" " " " 1880,	16,011 75
Reduction of debt,	$1,585 81

ADAM S. BALLANTYNE,
JASON FOSS,
FRANCIS STEVENS,
} *Auditors.*

Northfield, N. H., March 2, 1880.

Treasurer's Report.

Your Treasurer's report continues to bring you glad tidings of reduction of debt, economy in the administration of town affairs, and of a faithful and conscientious discharge of their duties by the several town officers. Weighed down by a debt of $40,000.00 at the close of the war, of $30,000.00 in 1872, of $25,000.00 in 1876, you are gradually, but surely, nearing the end. The net indebtedness of the town to-day is, in round numbers, $16,000.00. This is in bonds, maturing in 1883, 1888 and 1893. By a continuance of prosperity, by a rigid adherence to frugality, and by sound business management, every dollar of your debt will be met and paid at its maturity; and your rate of taxation during the coming nine years will materially decrease. During the past four years, ten thousand dollars of debt has been paid, besides providing for an annual interest of $600.00. In the last year the reduction of indebtedness has been $1,585.51, and there has been a perceptible reduction in the rate of taxation. The expenses of town officers have been kept at a figure of which the town may well be proud, and which compare most favorably with towns in this vicinity. The taxes have been collected with a success rarely equaled, and never excelled.

The spirit as well as the letter of the statute has been followed in the administration of all duties by town officers; and there has been harmony and concerted action on the part of the servants of the town in securing economy of expenditures and reform of lingering abuses. The material prosperity of the town is seen in the improvement of its real property, the advanced character of its citizens, and the growth of its reputation. With its privileges, its resources, and its immediate prospects, there is no reason why the town of Northfield should take second rank to any in the state in the content and success of its citizens. To secure this, there must be no backward step, no irresolution of purpose, and no halting in the achievements already secured. As citizens, we have pride in the financial standing of our town, and the record already made can

only be marred when we allow selfish and shortsighted counsels to control our actions. Below will be found the detailed statements of the receipts and expenditures for the year ending March 1, 1880.

Town of Northfield, in Account with F. J. Eastman.

March 1, 1879.		Cr.
By Cash on hand,		$982 99
Received on tax, 1877,		3 67
" " 1878,		354 87
" " 1879,		5,743 00
" Railroad tax,		417 45
" Savings Bank tax,		715 63
" Literary Fund,		63 27
" Reimbursements from County poor,		457 16
" Granite Mills tax,		41 58
Whole receipts by Treasurer,		$8,779 62

Which is accounted for in statement following:

MONEY PAID OUT BY TREASURER.

Paid County tax,	$1,300 18
State tax,	976 00
Coupons, 1878,	3 00
May Coupons, 1879,	540 00
November Coupons, 1879,	534 00
on Orders of Selectmen,	2,602 19
Cash on hand,	2,824 25
	$8,779 62

Statement showing Taxes raised for the last four years, and the amount of reduction on the Town Debt each year.

1876-7,	Amount,	$7,324 25	Reduction of Debt,		$2,912 20
1877-8,	"	7,748 29	"	"	3,500 00
1878-9,	"	6,685 94	"	"	1,850 00
1879-80,	"	6,275 86	"	"	1,585 51
					$9,847 71

Out-Standing Bonds, and when due.

$6,100,	due May 1,	1883.
6,100,	"	1888.
6,100,	"	1893.

Total amount of bonds owing,		$18,300 00
Interest on same since Nov., 1879,		366 00
Coupons due, and not presented for payment,		42 00
Dog tax collected, and undivided,		41 00
Due School District No. 5,		315 56
Total liabilities,		$19,064 56

Property on hand as Assets.

Cash,	$2,824 25
Uncollected taxes, worth	200 00
Note and Interest,	28 56
	$3,052 81

Leaving the debt of the Town, with the above means to pay, March 1, 1880, $16,011.75; against $17,597.26, March 1, 1879. Or, a reduction for the year of $1,585.51.

EXPENSE OF TOWN OFFICERS.

James N. Forrest, services as Selectman, and expense,		$93 00
Byron Shaw, " " " "		57 50
John S. Winslow, " " " "		42 00
		$192 50
Chas. F. Hill, Clerk,	$35 00	
Mrs. L. R. H. Cross, S. S. Committee,	25 00	
F. J. Eastman, Treasurer,	30 00	
Thos. W. Long, March 1 to March 11, 1879,	5 00	
Wyatt, Morrison and Sanborn, Supervisors,	13 75	
Three Auditors, $2.00 each,	6 00	
		$114 75
		$307 25

There are no unsettled or out-standing claims against the town within the knowledge of the Selectmen. There are no law suits pending, or suits threatened. The town seems to be at peace with all mankind; with three thousand dollars on hand to pay less than six hundred dollars of interest on bonds that fall due May 1, 1880.

It is the opinion of the Treasurer, safe to lay aside two thousand dollars as the nucleus of a fund to meet the bonds that mature in 1883, viz. $6,100.00. Whether to invest this amount in State or National bonds, or the Savings Banks, is proper for the people to say at their annual meeting in March of the present year. That this sum should be earning something must be evident to every prudent mind. That the Savings Bank, in Tilton, meets the requirements of a good rate of interest, and comparative safety, can be properly assumed as far as human foresight can forecast.

All of the above is respectfully submitted.

F. J. EASTMAN, *Treasurer.*

Northfield, N. H., March 1, 1880.

REPORT OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION,
FOR UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1.

During the past year the schools have been under the instruction of Miss Alice E. Freese and Miss Lizzie A. Chase, for the Grammar and Primary departments, respectively.

Owing to the large number of pupils in the Primary School, at the beginning of the Fall term, it was thought advisable, by the Board, to introduce an additional teacher. Accordingly, the services of Miss Marion Lyford were secured for ten weeks of the Fall term, at an expense of fifty dollars.

The Board feel no hesitation in assuring the District that, in their judgement, the like amount of money has never been expended to better advantage for the school. Miss Lyford seems peculiarly adapted for managing and instructing the small scholars, and the result of the third department was satisfactory.

Miss Freese, in the Grammar department, has labored faithfully and earnestly, and with a degree of success commensurate with her labors.

The Primary department, under Miss Chase, has been prosperous, notwithstanding the crowding of the room. It is simply impossible for one teacher to do justice to such a school as this, and we hope the District will give its immediate attention to fitting up another room for a third department.

In conclusion we wish to report that the success in each and all of the departments, as evidenced by the examination at the close of the year, has fully met the expectations of the Board; and we trust, is satisfactory to the friends and patrons of the school as regards progress, thoroughness, and discipline.

IN THE PRIMARY DEPARTMENT

THE ROLL OF HONOR

INCLUDES THE NAMES OF

Ella Clark,
Lottie Wadleigh,
Clara Staples,
Annie Young,
George Hanaford,
Jed. Hunkins.

IN THE GRAMMAR DEPARTMENT.

FIRST TERM.

Lizzie M. Page.

SECOND TERM.

Addie Avery,
Annie Dow,
Nettie Hurlburt,
Della Simpson,
John Fletcher,
Everett Hunkins.

THIRD TERM.

Della Simpson,
Nettie Hurlburt,
Everett Hunkins,
Annie M. Gould.

Table of Statistics.

Grammar School.	1st Term.	2d Term.	3d Term.
Length of School in weeks,	12	12	10
Whole number of Scholars,	30	22	23
Average Attendance,	28	19	21
Number in Reading,	30	22	24
" Spelling,	30	22	24
" Penmanship,	30	22	24
" Arithmetic,	30	22	24
" Geography,	16	15	19
" Grammar,	11	17	18
" Instances of Tardiness,	10	5	4
" Dismissals,	8	7	3

Primary School.	1st Term.	2d Term.	3d Term.
Length of School in weeks,	12	12	10
Whole number of Scholars,	55	46	61
Average Attendance,	43	37	48
Number in Reading,	55	46	61
" Spelling,	55	46	61
" Penmanship,	50	46	46
" Arithmetic,	40	46	46
" Geography,	15	17	17
" Instances of Tardiness,	21	29	26
" Dismissals,	8	10	10

CHARLES R. GOULD,
A. S. BALLANTYNE,
C. C. ROGERS,
} *Board of Education.*

Tilton, N. H., March 4, 1880.

ANNUAL REPORT

—OF THE—

Superintending School Committee.

CITIZENS OF NORTHFIELD:

In accordance with custom, and the laws of the state, information respecting the condition of the schools is herewith submitted; with such suggestions as may seem pertinent.

You have been told in glowing language, of the great benefit to the schools, that would surely follow the admission of women to the school ballot; and I have been very desirous that this year, the first under the new *regime*, should show, not only that they have maintained their former standing, but that they have gained some little vantage ground.

I found most of the teachers of high literary standing, and considerable experience; some having taught several terms before in the same school; a growing custom, which I cannot too highly commend.

For various reasons there have been various degrees of success; and I wish plainly to call your attention to some things that greatly detract from the efficiency of some of the schools, and ask you to commence, at once, the work of reform.

A good school meeting is the right beginning for a good school.

Many of our citizens take too little interest in these. It is often the case, unless a call for money is made, that the entire business of the district is transacted by three or four; those who are absent being the very ones who might do much for the prosperity of the school.

We assume without argument that intelligence is the best safeguard against pauperism, vice and crime; hence all have a duty, and should have an interest in the youth of the neighborhood, if they have no children of their own in the schools.

Prudential Committees should be chosen who have some known fitness for the place; a successful teacher, perhaps, or a parent who has an intelligent interest in his own children's welfare.

When you have found such a one retain him until you have found some one a little more competent. Two of the Prudential Committees have not seen their schools for the entire year, and a third one but once.

There is too little permanence in the office of Superintendent. This is especially seen in the interminable medley of text-books in nearly all our schools; any attempt at remedy, for a single year, has only added to the confusion, as the effort has not been seconded by the succession.

You will be obliged in the near future to select a committee to correct this fault, and to retain them long enough to perfect their action, as it cannot be done in a single year without too great expense.

I have made an effort to increase the percentage of attendance, and have been fully seconded by the teachers; yet the returns from many of the schools are far from satisfactory. I have received from each teacher weekly a report of their attendance and have returned the summary each Monday. This stimulated some ambition in most of the schools; but I know you will be surprised that the half-day absences have reached the incredible number of 2276, as shown in the table annexed; a loss of 227 1-2 weeks on an enrollment of only 114 scholars.

There is no need of comment. If our schools are worth anything you cannot afford this loss; if they are not, it is high time you set about making them better. The wrong you do your children in allowing them to remain at home, for any trivial pretext, cannot be estimated; besides, it is impossible for those pres-

ent to settle down to their work until the expected ones either make their appearance or are given up for the day.

Lack of black-boards and apparatus is a serious drawback in our schools, but I am happy to say that there is a prospect of these being supplied at no far distant date. Should the plan I have under advisement fail, the law passed last June, setting apart one-fifth of the Literary fund for this purpose, will soon put them in all our school-rooms.

I suggested on my first visits that the schools in adjoining districts exchange visits sometime during the year; but for some reason only two were made.

There is no course of study, no system of rank or grade common to the several schools, and were we to promote our older pupils to a higher grade they would be as unlike as "Falstaff's Recruits." One teacher makes arithmetic a specialty, another grammar, and a third spelling, to the partial neglect of other branches. An exchange of visits occasionally would tend to uniformity, and show both teacher and pupils some things to avoid, if none to copy. This is a requirement in many towns and cities.

It should be the most important characteristic of school training to teach the pupil to use our own language with accuracy, force, and facility.

This is the peculiar province of grammar, and it is what our text books advertise ~~us~~ to do; to teach us "how to speak and write the English language with propriety;" but I doubt if they do either.

The majority of the older pupils forgetting the precise language of the text, are unable often to frame a clear or comprehensive answer to a question on a perfectly familiar subject. Hence they fail on examination days, and the parents, distressed at their embarassment, cease their visits.

The introduction of the new grammars, or primary rhetorics, by your committee in 1877, was a step in the right direction, and those schools where they, and the revised edition, have been

properly tested, and the pupils required to write all the exercises on the black-boards, have begun to show very good results.

I know they have not been popular with some of the teachers, and in one or two schools the scholars voted them out and went back to the useless drill of parsing. I would suggest that a school is a Monarchy, rather than a Republic, and that majorities should not always rule. Let us see more drill in the construction of sentences. Let them be rapidly written upon the black-boards, properly spelled and punctuated, and the pupil will thus get a four-fold benefit, penmanship, composition, spelling and punctuation. Let the dreaded task of writing compositions, if but a single sentence, be a part of every day's work, and it will soon become a pleasure.

I have furnished each teacher with a copy of "Cowdrey's Moral Lessons," a little collection of stories setting forth in an attractive manner the value of the courtesies and proprieties of life; the results of kindness, gentleness and self-respect. They contain no denominational sentiment, and, I think, supply a lack in our schools; as that education is a failure which does not tend to truth, integrity and nobleness of character, and inspire the heart with an appreciation of moral excellence, and a love for it.

We have endeavored to make the past year a *green* spot in our school annals. Four of the schools have commenced to ornament their grounds with shade trees, and two of them, Nos. 5 and 7, have organized for their protection.

It is becoming quite the custom in some of the best schools in the state to have a first-class newspaper, and to make its perusal a part of each day's exercise; and the advocates of this measure claim that they have at last found the missing link between the science and the theory of the school-room and the practice of busy life outside; at any rate, in a year or two it will be the sole educator of many of the pnpils now in our schools, and what can be more fitting than for the schools to teach its use? Some standard sheet, with its reviews, literary criticisms, details of prominent industries, and records of the advancement in science and art would add in a single term greatly to a pupil's stock of useful information. Sectarian and partisan articles could be easily avoided.

Your attention is called to the annexed table of statistics, roll of honor, and reports of the several schools under their appropriate headings. You find *there* only results. Whenever I have found anything objectionable in the conduct of the schools or methods of instruction, I have frankly advised a different course; my suggestions have been kindly received, and in some good measure carried out. I deemed this a better way than to pass them over, and parade them before the public, after the schools had closed, and there was no remedy.

Thanking you for your courtesy and co-operation, I would very respectfully submit this report.

LUCY R. H. CROSS,
S. S. Committee of Northfield.

DISTRICT NO. 1.—CENTRE.

Both summer and fall terms taught by Miss Nellie M. Brown, a teacher of experience and ability.

This is her second year in this school, and the results prove the wisdom of the committee in retaining her. The order here is *very* excellent and the very best state of feeling between teacher and pupils seems to prevail. As a natural consequence, good progress was made. This school is using the "Script Spellers," and the improvement in penmanship is very marked.

This school needs more black-board room in order to make written arithmetic a little more practical. The parents here show an interest in the school by frequent visits, the register showing a larger list than any other.

It is the opinion of your commttee that the repair money ought to keep this school-house in better condition, at least to keep doors hung and plastering whole, and I may as well suggest here that it is as clearly the duty of the prudential committee to faithfully expend the last cent of the repair money for repairs, if needed, as to expend the balance for school.

District No. 2.—Bay Hill.

Summer term taught by Miss Lura E. Bryer. I found only three pupils present at the closing examination. One of these showed excellent work on the board, in practical arithmetic, another the best work in spelling I have seen for the year and wonderful familiarity with the new map of New Hampshire. I could not find that the poor attendance was traceable to any fault of the teacher, or that she had not achieved all the success possible under the circumstances. A part of the absences was caused by sickness in one of the families.

Fall term taught by Miss Anda L. Thompson, a teacher of marked thoroughness and ability; and the closing examination showed much better work than I was prepared to see, considering the poor attendance. These scholars show ability, and at their best, could make a record to be proud of.

The condition of this school-house does not allow the school to begin early enough or keep late enough to expend all the money.

This district has more money than any other in town, except Union District, and the building is not in keeping with the prosperity of the inhabitants. It is stepping back a half-century to enter so dismal and loathsome a place, the more, as it contrasts so strangely with the unsurpassed beauty of the locality.

Its inside still retains the old down hill grade and its backless and bottomless benches are shockingly disfigured. I should not consider it courteous to place language before you that would express their condition. The effect on the school is obvious. Children will not leave their comfortable and pleasant homes to spend their days in such a place. I do not see how the voters can be contented there long enough to transact necessary business, unless "Colors seen by candle-light do not look the same by day." Let us see the result. *Seven hundred and fifty-four* half-day's absences on an enrollment of only ten.

No roll of honor.

The Prudential Committee has not seen the school for the year; neither has one of the parents, and but a single citizen, each term.

District No. 3.—Hodgdon.

No school the past year, for want of scholars, and with but little better prospect for the coming year.

The law passed in 1878 which provides that a district having less than twelve scholars may, by vote, send to other schools, and appropriate ten per cent. of all school money in the district, for conveying to and from any school more than a mile and a half distant, may be of benefit to this district.

District No. 4.—Rand.

Summer term taught by Miss Anda L. Thompson, of whom I have spoken elsewhere. I expected success, and was not disappointed, as the teacher had taught here several terms before, a very favorable indication of merit on the part of both teacher and school. I found here excellent work, especially in mental arithmetic. There is not half black-board enough for so large a school.

Fall term taught by G. Edwin Gorrell, who taught here the preceding winter and is a resident of the district.

The attendance during this term was especially worthy of notice, sometimes showing not a single absence for a week or two.

This fact alone would be sufficient indication of interest and consequent progress.

The work in practical arithmetic was excellent.

This school-house is an insult to the brisk little boys and girls that attend here so punctually. Were I to attempt to describe it I should merely repeat what I have said of No. 2.

The *outside* is *bad* enough, the *inside* is *worse*, and I know not what to say of the out-buildings and surroundings.

You cannot educate pure and noble minded men and women in such a place. Lucky will it be for the citizens of these districts if

they do not awake sometime to find that these school-houses were *enemies* who came while they slept and sowed *tares* in their wheat, for

> "Vice is a monster of such horrid mien,
> That to be hated, needs but to be seen;
> But seen too oft, familiar with its face,
> We first endure, then pity, then embrace."

I hardly see how the interest here has been mantained. The register shows three visits from prudential committee, and forty-nine from parents and citizens.

District No. 5.—Oak Hill.

Both terms taught by Oliver L. Cross.

This school is the largest and hardest in town, the pupils ranging from the primmer to the higher mathematics. There are young ladies and gentlemen here sufficiently adavanced to attend the Seminary. These pupils are very proud of their beautiful school-room, and seem fully to understand that their nice blackboards, covering about 100 square feet, were made for use. So much written work has improved both confidence and expression.

I saw some very excellent work here at the closing examination in arithmetic, the pupils going to the board without books, writing and discounting notes, and showing the difference between annual and compound interest as readily as inexperienced financiers.

There was good progress also in many of the lower classes.

Order excellent.

District No. 6.—Bean Hill.

Summer term taught by Miss Annie E. Clark. There seemed to be a lack of energy in this school, the pupils showing a diffidence that could not be overcome. I found, however, the written work better than the oral, and considering the inattendance, think some progress was made.

Fall term was very unfortunate in having three different teachers. Miss Nellie S. French taught two weeks, followed by Miss Marion E. Lyford. The former leaving on account of sickness, the latter to accept a situation elsewhere. Remainder of the term in charge of Miss Nora E. Page, a young lady of energy, but with poor attendance, want of interest on the part of parents, and other, more serious, opposition, she achieved but a partial success. This school lacks enthusiasm, and must be petted a little by the intelligent citizens of this district. An experienced teacher, possessed of energy and tact, would find here a good field for labor.

District No. 7.—Pond.

Both terms taught by Lucy R. H. Cross. Perhaps modesty would forbid my saying much in praise of this school, but in justice to the parents and pupils, I must say that the year has been a very harmonious and profitable one.

Most of these scholars take good rank in penmanship, composition and reading.

This district enjoys the reputation of being the first to test the wisdom of allowing women to hold civil offices. If the interest this lady has manifested is any test, we see no reason why the law makers should not congratulate themselves, for yielding so gracefully to the onward march of civilization.

NAMES OF PUPILS PRESENT EVERY HALF DAY.

District No. 1.—Centre.

FIRST TERM.

Sarah J. Sanborn,
Kate A. Murphy,
Maggie M. Murphy.

SECOND TERM.

Sarah J. Sanborn,
Katie H. Sanborn,
Charlie F. Sanborn,
Edna E. Davis,
Frank M. Davis.

District No. 4.

FIRST TERM.

Jed. Glines,
Willie French.

SECOND TERM.

Mabel Downing,
Bessie Downing,
Mabel French,
Bertha A. French,
Roy Glines,
Jed. Glines,
Hattie B. Riley.

District No. 5.

FIRST TERM.

Cora E. Moore,
Della A. Moore,
Lura A. Dow,
Robert Lee Cross,
Albert Drown,
Guy Dow,
Arthur G. Moore,
Almor F. Plummer,
Sarah H. Robertson,
Mary A. Robertson,
Mabel G. Lambert.

SECOND TERM.

Nancy J. Keniston,
Cora E. Moore,
Della A. Moore,
Almor F. Plummer.

District No. 7.

FIRST TERM.

Arthur B. Cross.

SECOND TERM.

Arthur B. Cross,
Carrie B. Glines,
Robert Lee Cross.

Tabular Statement.

No. of District.	Name of District.	Whole Number of Pupils.	Length of School.	In Reading.	In Spelling.	In Geography.	In Arithmetic.	In Penmanship.	In Grammar.	In History.	In Composition.	In Book-Keeping.	In Philosophy.	In Physiology.	No. of Half-day Absences.	No. Tardy.	Dismissed.
1	Centre.	24	20	24	24	10	13	18	3	0	11				369	12	29
2	Bay Hill.	11	25	11	11	2	11	11	4	4	3				754	74	16
4	Rand.	20	19 1-2	20	18	8	16	16	10	2	6	1	1	1	174	8	12
5	Oak Hill.	30	22	30	30	13	27	25	17	0	17				689	33	13
6	Bean Hill.	9	19	9	9	3	6	7	2	0	0				228	47	21
7	Pond.	10	18	10	10	7	7	7	5	4	5	2			62	5	3
	Total,	114	123	104	102	43	80	84	41	10	42	3	1	1	2276	179	94

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